



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS INTERNATIONAL ALIEN SMUGGLING RING MEMBER

CHICAGO — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today deported a 28-year-old Ecuadorian national who helped smuggle hundreds of illegal aliens into the United States using fraudulent U.S. passports.

Henry Bolivar Rendon-Arizaga, an illegal alien from Ecuador, was turned over to ICE June 19 upon his release from prison and remained in federal custody until this morning when he was deported to Quito, Ecuador.

Rendon-Arizaga was part of an organization that recruited U.S. citizens to apply for U.S. passports using photographs of illegal aliens from South America – mostly children from Ecuador – for fees of \$12,000 to \$14,000 each. Once the U.S. citizen agreed to assist in fraudulently obtaining the U.S. passport, they would be provided with a photo of an undocumented alien to submit with the passport application. The U.S. citizen would be paid \$300 to \$500 to turn the passport over to the alien smuggling organization. Smuggling organizers in New York then collected payment from the family members of the smuggled alien. Smuggling fees were paid and illicit proceeds were distributed between the conspirators via wire transfers and cash transactions.



Rendon-Arizaga pleaded guilty in January 2004 in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to conspiracy to fraudulently obtain U.S. passports to smuggle South Americans into the U.S. for financial gain. He was sentenced to 12 months in prison.

Rendon-Arizagadez and his co-conspirators were the targets of a two-year joint investigation conducted by ICE, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Seven individuals have been sentenced in this case.

The investigation began Jan. 7, 2003 into an alien smuggling organization dedicated to illegally recruiting, transporting, harboring and smuggling hundreds of illegal aliens from Ecuador and South America into the United States.

“Alien smuggling poses a serious threat to our national security,” said ICE Field Office Director Deborah Achim. “ICE has no tolerance for anyone making, selling, providing or using fraudulent documents to circumvent our nation’s immigration laws.” Achim oversees ICE Detention and Removal Operations in a six-state area that includes: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri.

Chicago ICE deported more than 6,100 criminal and illegal aliens living in the agency's operational area in fiscal year 2004, a 28-percent increase from the previous year.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.